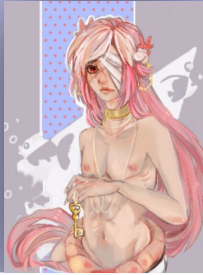




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# The Catch

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## Chapter 1 by Phantim

Being a mermaid isn't all singing fish and sunken treasure. There is a reason the elders warn us about the surface, about /humans/. We are the ultimate amphibian you could say, able to live deep under the sea or at the surface and on the beaches. There was once a time when we could go where we pleased, but now, that is not the case. Fear of humans has driven us deep within the ocean and away from the coasts. The depths of the ocean had become our refuge and our prison. I thought I could escape. It hurts to be cut off from that - from such a huge part of life. I thought I could take that part back, that I could go to the surface. That everything was blown out of proportion and that humans couldn't be so awful! I wanted - needed to prove it! In the end though, I was utterly wrong. It all began the day I tried to talk to one... to a human. To /that/ human...

## Chapter 2 by MochaMika



His smile perfectly illuminated his face. His blue eyes reflected the ocean. His whole facade was perfect. How couldn't you fall for it? He was a song, every note matched perfectly in tune. But like all songs, it comes to an ending. It was suppose to be a secret, but I guess the only way to

keep a secret is to have one of them dead. That's what his thought process was. I remember first meeting him, and the last time I saw him. I was sure he was the last thing I ever saw...

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Chapter 3 by Laura Frost



"You are an abomination," He told me. "All of your kind deserve to die."

#### Chapter 4 by SaintSayaka



The knife in his hand was quick.

"What's the matter?" he whispered, his blade striking me square in the cheek. "Afraid of getting another set of gills?"

If the stab hurt, its path across my flesh was agony. I screamed as it ripped my jaw into an arc, blood spraying into the sea foam. I weakly tried to pull back, but his fist latched onto my shoulder. He would not let me go without a fight.

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